**Emotion as WOK**

Star Trek - The Next Generation - “Measure of a Man”

Was there a particular way of knowing that was most important in the decision about whether Data was the property of Starfleet?

In this episode of Star Trek “measure of a man” they go over the problem of whether or not android Data was the property of start fleet or if he was did not belong to anyone. I have focused on the scene where they were in the court room determining whether or not Data was able to make his own decisions in what he allowed people to do with him.

This episode showed many ways of knowing, one way that was used by Riker was of Sense perception. There was a point in the film where he made Data bend a piece of metal; these could be seen as proving that he is a robot, he also made data take off his arm, Data had felt no pain in the process which again proved that he was indeed a robot that was made to follow orders. Riker also deactivated Data which caused him to be perceived even more so as a robot and not as living being, turning off all his sense utilities.

Language could also be seen in this episode as a way of knowing. The language used by Commander Maddux was very degenerate towards Data because he kept on referring to him as “it” during the whole episode and especially in the court scene when he was asked to give reason as to why Commander Data was not classified to him as a sentient being, they ruled that he was intelligent, self aware but they did not come to a conclusion regarding his consciousness. Commander Riker also uses language as a way of knowing when he refers to Commander Data as being broken when he uses the phrase “Pinocchio is broken” making him seem unreal like Pinocchio was.

Emotion was another way of knowing that I saw used. Before the trial Commander Riker was forced to prosecute Commander Data in the court room and Riker had opposed to it because he had an emotional attachment to Data and considered him as a friend. During the trial Captain Picard asks Data why he keeps some of his personal belongs because one would think that as an android he would have no need to keep them. Data tells Picard that he kept the medals shown in the episode because he just wanted them, he kept the book that Captain Picard gave him because he saw it as a sign of their friendship, and finally the hologram of someone that he claims to have had an intimate relationship with which would be hard to believe because he is a robot. These all could be seen as emotional attachments that Commander Data has to these objects, proving to the possibility that he is a sentient being. Another way emotion was used was when the judge started talking about whether or not Data had a soul or if anyone else did in fact have one but no one would have any possible way of knowing, this brings about an emotional effect as to not just Data’s life but everyone else’s too.

Overall I thought the most important way of knowing and the one that stood out to me most was emotion. Without this Captain Picard and Commander Riker would not have cared for Data’s life or role on the enterprise because they would not have seen any reason to. Emotion greatly effects one’s decisions and actions.